

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled, the Abstract is amended, and claims 1, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18-21 are amended. Support for the amendments to the Abstract and claims 1, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18-21 can be found, for example, in the original Abstract and in original claims 1, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 18-21. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for including multiple paragraphs. By this Amendment, the Abstract is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Takemura

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-12, 14 and 16-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 10-298546 to Takemura et al. ("Takemura"). By this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled, rendering the rejection moot as to that claim. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a]n illumination system, comprising: phosphore particles dispersed in a solid, durable matrix; and a substrate; wherein: the matrix is in the form of a thin layer adhered to the substrate; and the illumination system can be handled by a user" (emphasis added). Takemura does not disclose or suggest such an illumination system.

The Office Action asserts that Takemura discloses an illumination system including phosphor particles dispersed in a solid, durable matrix. See Office Action, page 2. Takemura

discloses protecting phosphor particles by coating the particles with a protective film of a binder, such as silica. *See, e.g., Takemura*, paragraphs [0006] to [0007]. *Takemura* discloses, in particular, the precipitation and adhesion of silica on the surface of phosphor particles. *See, e.g., Takemura*, paragraphs [0011] to [0016]. In *Takemura*, coated phosphor particles are adhered to a substrate (*see, e.g., Takemura*, paragraph [0008]) – *Takemura* does not disclose a continuous homogeneous film including such particles formed on a substrate.

As indicated above, the illumination system of claim 1 includes phosphor particles dispersed in a matrix in the form of a thin layer adhered to a substrate. The matrix is a solid and durable matrix that can be handled by a user. That is, the phosphor content in the matrix does not prevent formation of an intact film. Moreover, the film has substantial cohesion on a mechanical level and sufficient homogeneity to form, for example, a transparent lighting unit or a diffusing lighting unit with a uniform appearance, with its substrate. *Takemura* fails to disclose or suggest such a structure, or recognize the benefits stemming therefrom.

As *Takemura* fails to disclose or suggest an illumination system including phosphor particles dispersed in a solid, durable matrix in the form of a thin layer adhered to a substrate, *Takemura* fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

As explained, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Takemura*. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8-12, 14 and 16-21 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by *Takemura*. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Asao

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 10-158644 to Asao et al. ("Asao"). By this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled, rendering the rejection moot as to that claim. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is set forth above. Asao does not disclose or suggest such an illumination system.

The Office Action asserts that Asao discloses an illumination system including phosphor particles dispersed in a solid, durable matrix. *See* Office Action, page 5. Asao discloses protecting phosphor particles by coating the particles with a protective film including a binder. *See, e.g., Asao*, paragraph [0006]. Asao does not disclose a continuous homogeneous film including phosphor particles formed on a substrate, as described above. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to Takemura, Asao also fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

As explained, claim 1 is not anticipated by Asao. Claims 2-6 and 10-13 depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Asao. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

#### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takemura. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For the reasons discussed above, claim 1 would not have been rendered obvious by Takemura. Claim 15 depends from claim 1 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Takemura. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

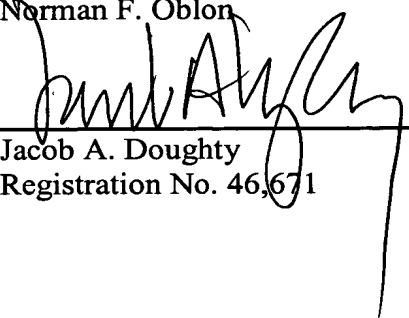
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 and 8-21 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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